

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 AGR-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 /124 W

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R 260551Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9815

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN

AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN

USLO PEKING UNN

AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #23

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING (LOU)

BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDED UNUSUALLY BRIEF DAY AND A HALF

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MEETING JUNE 24. NE WIN ADDRESSED BOTH SESSIONS THUS DISPELLING

LAST WEEK'S RUMORS OF HIS DEMISE (WEEKA 22, ITEM 1). MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS APPARENTLY REVIEW OF APPEALS OF PARTY SANCTIONS AGAINST ERRING MEMBERS, LARGELY FOR CORRUPTION OR ABUSE OF POWER. COMMITTEE ALSO ELECTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO CENTRAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (ALL ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY) INCLUDING DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER AND FORMER RANGOON COMMAND COMMANDER COL. KHIN OHN AND DEPUTY MINES MINISTER COL. THAN TIN. IN HIS CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE COMMITTEE, NE WIN NOTED THAT WHILE GUB HAS BEEN COMBATTING BCP SINCE NATION'S BIRTH, BSPP IS NOT ANTI-COMMUNIST OR ANTI-LEFTIST, PERHAPS AN EFFORT TO OFFER A SMALL OLIVE BRANCH TO PRC. INTERESTINGLY, HE ALSO CITED THE NEED TO BALANCE POPULATION AND PRODUCTION, THE FIRST TIME THE TOP LEADERSHIP HAS RAISED PUBLICLY THE SENSITIVE POPULATION ISSUE. NO NEW STEPS TO COMBAT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE ANNOUNCED HOWEVER. WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CC MEETING, IT IS WIDELY RUMORED THAT NE WIN WILL SOON BE OFF TO EUROPE FOR R&R AND MEDICAL TREATMENT.

2. AFTERMATH OF DISTURBANCES (LOU)

GUB HAS BEGUN TO TAKE RETRIBUTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTIGATING THE JUNE 1975 CIVIL DISTURBANCES. SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCED TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE AMONG THOSE ARRESTED AT THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA TO SEVEN YEARS "RIGOROUS" IMPRISONMENT AND A THIRD TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM. THESE STUDENTS WERE TWO-TIME LOSERS HAVING BEEN ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO THREE-YEAR PRISON TERMS FOR THEIR PART IN LAST DECEMBER'S RIOTS BUT LATER PARDONED. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GUB WILL GRANT THEM SIMILAR CLEMENCY THIS TIME. IN ANOTHER ACTION, GUB ARRESTED 28 WORKERS FROM THE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOP WHO ARE ACCUSED OF INSTIGATING UNREST AMONG THEIR FELLOW WORKERS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENTENCED.

IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR, COOKING OIL AND OTHER BASIC FOOD ITEMS WHICH WERE PLACED UNDER PRICE CONTROLS FOLLOWING THE DISTURBANCES (WEEKA 22, ITEM 5) CONTINUE TO BE IN SHORT SUPPLY OR UNAVAILABLE IN MANY COMMUNITIES. PRICES FOR THESE ITEMS ON THE BLACKMARKET HAVE BEGUN TO LEVEL OFF, BUT AT A RATE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE PRE-CONTROL PRICE. THESE ITEMS, WHICH BEFORE CONTROLS WERE SOLD LEGALLY ON THE OPEN MARKET, HAVE NOW SIMPLY JOINED THE LONG LIST OF OTHER COMMODITIES THAT ARE TRADED IN BURMA'S BLACKMARKET. AS A FURTHER SOP TO WORKERS, GUB ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLOWED TO PURCHASE THEIR FULL YEAR'S ALLOTMENT OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING FROM GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVES AT ANY TIME THEY WISHED. WORKERS REACTION WAS CYNICAL WITH MANY NOTING THAT EVEN THEIR MONTHLY ALLOTMENT WAS USUALLY UNAVAILABLE SO HOW COULD THEY EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT SHOP TO HAVE A FULL YEAR'S SUPPLY. EVEN SHOULD SOME CO-OPS HAVE SUFFICIENT STOCKS AVAILABLE, MOST WORKERS WOULD NOT HAVE THE MONEY (K150 TO K200) TO BUY A YEAR'S SUPPLY AT ONE TIME. THOSE THAT DO MAKE SUCH LARGE PURCHASES QUITE LIKELY

WILL RECEIVE THE CAPITAL FROM BLACKMARKETEERS AND FOR A SMALL FEE
THEY WILL THEN TURN THE MATERIAL OVER TO THESE TRADERS. HENCE,
THE REAL WINNER FROM THE RECENT DISTURBANCES APPEARS TO BE
BURMA'S ALREADY THRIVING BLACKMARKET.

3. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOSCOW (LOU)

DEPUTY PRIMIN AND FINANCE MINISTER U LWIN RETURNED FROM VISIT TO
MOSCOW JUNE 20. GUB HAS NOT ISSUED STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS
(IF ANY) OF THE TRIP, ALTHOUGH AN MFA SOURCE CONTENDS THAT A
\$1 MILLION LOAN FOR GYPSUM DEVELOPMENT WAS NEGOTIATED, PERHAPS AN
ADDITION TO THE USSR'S 1973 LOAN OF \$1 MILLION FOR SIMILAR PROJECTS.
U LWIN'S VISIT AS WELL AS THAT OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION
CURRENTLY VISITING THE USSR (WEEKA 22, ITEM 2) HAVE RECEIVED
EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND MAY BE INTENDED AS A
SIGNAL TO THE PRC. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT TO AN MFA OFFICIAL
THAT THE PRC EMBASSY HERE WAS PROBABLY PONDERING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF INCREASED EXCHANGES WITH USSR, HE COMMENTED, "I HOPE SO. THAT'S
THE WHOLE POINT".
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R 260551Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

4. NARCOTICS: WRAP UP OF SEIZURES AND ARRESTS IN RANGOON (UNCLAS)

LANZIN NEWS JOURNAL PUBLISHED ITS VERSION OF ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFECTIVENESS IN THE RANGOON AREA ON JUNE 1. PREFACING ITS STATISTICS BY REMARKING THAT NARCOTICS POSES A DANGER TO THE WELL BEING OF THE WORLD AND THAT BURMA IS DOING ITS PART TO ERADICATE NARCOTICS, ARTICLE OFFERED FOLLOWING STATISTICS ON SEIZURES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RANGOON DIVISION:

	HEROIN	OPIUM		
	SEIZURES	QUANTITY	SEIZURES	QUANTITY
CY 1973	16	9.9 KG		
CY 1974	51	10.0 KG	103	82 KG
JAN/FEB 1975	5	0.8 KG	2	6 KG

THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PRICE OF OPIUM HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY BY ABOUT 300 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND THAT HEROIN IS NOW BEING SOLD IN DILUTED FORMS AS OPPOSED TO THE ALMOST PURE HEROIN OF TWO YEARS AGO. FURTHER, THE ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ABUSERS ONCE WERE PRIMARILY OF THE LOWER LABORING CLASS, BUT THAT IT IS NOW MONEYED, MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS WHO MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF ADDICTS.

COMMENT: THE FIGURES ARE IMPRESSIVE IN THEMSELVES, BUT PROBABLY STILL DO NOT FULLY REPRESENT THE COMPLETE PICTURE OF ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIONS IN RANGOON. PART OF THE DISCREPANCY MAY BE DUE TO ERRORS BY REPORTERS BUT OTHER FACTORS MAY ALSO COME INTO PLAY. AN IMPORTANT ONE COULD BE ARRESTS OF THE MONEYED CLASSES, WHICH PROBABLY ARE NOT REVEALED TO THE LOCAL PRESS. EXAMPLES WHICH COME TO MIND ARE CASES OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS' CHILDREN CAUGHT POSSESSING OR USING NARCOTICS, AS WELL AS SEVERAL UBA PILOTS.

5. NARCOTICS: UNFDAC TEAM ARRIVES (UNCLAS)

ACCORDING TO RANGOON ACTING WHO REPRESENTATIVE, UNFDANLTEAM, COMPOSED OF MESSRS. MICUTA AND LING, ARRIVED IN RANGOON JUNE 23 TO BEGIN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CROP/INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. WHO DIRECTOR SAID A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS HAD ARISEN. DISPUTE IS OVER PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS TO PLACE INTO EQUIPMENT AND INTO TRAINING AND EDUCATION; GUB FAVORS MORE EQUIPMENT (ITS USUAL POSITION IN CONNECTION WITH UN AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS). U KYAW, MFA, WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS, SEES NO REAWGPROBLEMS WITH NEGOTIATIONS ENDING IN A FEW DAYS. WHO REP MENTIONED \$6.5 MILLION VICE \$5 MILLION AS CURRENT ESTIMATED PROJECT COST.

6. SLOWLY GRIND THE MILLS (UNCLAS)
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THE GUB HAS AT LAST EFFECTED CONVERSION, AS REQUIRED BY THE LAST U.S. - BURMESE P.L. 480 SALES AGREEMENT, OF 2 PERCENT OF LOCAL CURRENCY PROCEEDS OF THE TRANSACTION INTO CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. REQUEST FOR THE FINAL INCREMENT OF THE CONVERSION HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE SEPTEMBER 1970. OSBORN

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